

- e) 0.1 to 1.5% of a  $C_{12-22}$  fatty acid or salt
- f) the balance being a natural starch.

13. (New) A composition as claimed in claim 12 wherein component e) is stearic acid.

14. (New) A composition as claimed in claim 12 wherein component b) is a polyvinyl alcohol component.

15. (New) A composition as claimed claim 12 wherein the polyol plasticiser is glycerol.

16. (New) A composition as claimed claim 12 wherein the polyol plasticiser content is zero and added water is from 10 to 12 %.

Sub D1 17. (New) A biodegradable film forming polymer composition which consists of 8 to 80% of a starch modified to include an hydroxyalkyl  $C_{2-6}$  group or modified by reaction with an anhydride of a carboxylic acid

a) 4 to 11 % of a water soluble polymer selected from polyvinylacetate, polyvinyl alcohol and copolymers of ethylene and vinyl alcohol

b) 10 to 16% of a polyol plasticizer

c) up to 12% added water

d) 0.1 to 1.5% of a  $C_{12-22}$  fatty acid or salt

e) the balance being a naturally starch.

18. (New) A composition as claimed in claim 17 wherein component d) is stearic acid.